

## *Faithful Christ Followers*

*“Be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.”* - 1 Samuel 12:24

**Our Theme Last Year:** *Revival, Rejoicing and Reaching Out*

**Our Theme for 2019:** *Faithful Christ Followers — Living For Jesus in Every Area of Life*

### **The Purpose for This Theme:**

1. To appreciate our many blessings, resources and opportunities from God.
2. To realize our responsibility to share our blessings, use our resources and seize our opportunities faithfully for God.
3. To live faithfully for God in every area of life.
4. To remember that our job is to share the love of God in deed and in word. We reach out first “missionally” and then “attractively.”

### **Sermon Series this Year**

*Jan.-Feb. — God’s Laws for Life*

*March-April — Jesus’ Sayings On the Cross*

*April-June — Family & The Christian Marriage*

*Summer — Fantastic Faith (Hebrews 11)*

*Sept. - Nov. — The Blessings of the Beatitudes*

*October 27 — The Greatness of Friendship (Friend Day)*

*November — Who I Am By God’s Word*

*December — Jesus, the Son*

### **Series One: God’s Laws for Life & Resources**

1. *God’s Timing and My Time (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11)*
2. *Laws That Affect Your Life (Luke 6:38)*
3. *What is a Faithful Christian? (Matthew 25:14-30)*
4. *Five Follies of a Foolish Farmer (Luke 12:16-21)*
5. *Receivers and Contributors (Acts 3:1-10)*

## **Models of Faithfulness for a Christ Follower**

Second Timothy is the last correspondence we have from the apostle Paul. It was written to Timothy around 66AD, when the Roman persecutions of the early Christians had already started. Paul writes to his “son in the faith” Timothy to show him how to live as a faithful Christian.

### **Three Models of a Faithful Christ Follower:**

#### 1. The Key in the Model of the Soldier is Sacrifice.

*“Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life so that he may please the one who enlisted him to be a soldier.”* - 2 Timothy 2:3,4

A soldier sacrifices...

- The easy life (“*Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*”)
- The secure life (“*No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life...*”)
- The independent life (“*...so that he may please the one who enlisted him to be a soldier.*”)

#### 2. The Key in the Model of the Athlete is Discipline.

*“And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.”* - 2 Timothy 2:5

- Discipline in training.
- Discipline in running.

God expects Faithful Christ Followers to be like the athlete who wins the prize—disciplined in training and disciplined in running!

#### 3. The Key in the Model of the Farmer is Action.

*“The **hard-working** farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.”* - 2 Timothy 2:6

A farmer’s life is characterized by action — hard work!

- The farmer’s hard work is done with patience.
- The farmer’s hard work is directed towards the harvest.

God expects each Christ Follower to be faithful, which will include sacrifice like a soldier, discipline like an athlete, and action like a farmer.

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